

**Summary of Public Comments taken at the public meeting
on the draft Blue Hills Complex RMP
Sharon Public Library; November 10, 2016**

The following summary does not serve as a verbatim transcript of the November 10, 2016 public meeting. It highlights comments received and issues raised during the Public Comments segment of that meeting.

Pauline Collins:

- Expressed distress that questions about hunting at the Blue Hill Reservation have not been answered by DCR.
- DCR has been in the news recently; feels that things related to hunting are being determined “behind the scenes.”
- Requested that a new survey of deer be conducted at the Blue Hills Reservation.
- DCR needs someone to answer questions regarding hunting at the Blue Hills – Accountability
- # Deer taken in 2015 hunt doesn’t seem to match up to the reported density. That is, hunters should have shot more deer if deer numbers were as high as indicated by survey.
- Deer hunt is too costly (stated by Ms. Collins as \$2,300/deer); alternatives to hunting need to be considered.

Nadine Pellegrino; Animal Rescue League of Boston:

- Opposes deer hunting, especially bow hunting. Believes it to be inhumane.
- Bow hunting has higher rates of crippling; wounded deer can travel, including into highway traffic.
- Lack of biodiversity as reason for the hunt is false.
- Please consider change to hunt, especially bow hunt.

David Hodgdon; Blue Hills Adventures and Quarry Museum:

- Blue Hills’ deer move between the Reservation and private properties outside the park; what is the resident time of deer in the Reservation?
- Has seen only 15 deer since the last meeting, and only one tick.
- Opposes hunting in the Blue Hills and doesn’t want to see it continue.

Deborah Stein Sharpe; Canton Walk, Bike, and Hike Committee:

- Cannot find information on Farnham and Connolly in the RMP or on DCR’s web page. [It is in the Neponset River Reservation chapter.]
- Would like to see Farnham & Connolly property/trails map on DCR’s web page.

Timothy Friedmann; New England Mountain Bike Association:

- Parking at Houghton’s Pond is a big issue in the summer. Are there plans to increase parking?
- Does need for additional parking not meet the current prioritization criteria?

Marita Cronin; Milton:

- Someone died recently speed boat racing on a lake in a DCR park, is that park in the Blue Hills Complex? [Fatality occurred at Watson Pond State Park, which is not in the Complex.]
- Speed enforcement along Unquity Road was recommended in the 2011 RMP; it is still needed throughout.

Anne Ladd; Friends of the Blue Hills:

- What is a source of information on the buildings and structures at Ponkapoag Golf Course?

Bob Flagg; Friends of the Blue Hills:

- How is funding available for projects balanced with the recommendations in an RMP? It would be helpful to know how much funding is available to address concerns.
- How do you prioritize implementation of projects (from recommendations)?
- What timeline can stakeholders expect for projects to be implemented?

Cynthia Haigh; Milton [Name/spelling of name uncertain – did not sign in]:

- What determines success of deer hunt? What is metric of success, and what is the desired outcome?
- Wants an independent survey of deer population at the Blue Hills Reservation.

David Hodgdon; Blue Hills Adventures and Quarry Museum:

- There has been no maintenance of the Corn Crib at Ponkapoag Golf Course; it needs paint.
- David Hodgdon and friends did work on the Corn Crib 25 years ago; it has not been maintained since.

Cynthia O'Connell; Canton Conservation Agent:

- Is the property at the intersection of Route 95, near Fowl Meadow, included in this RMP?
- Is there a possibility of connecting Farnham & Connolly Park to Fowl Meadow via trail?
- DCR may want to look at Cumberland Farms property (725 Dedham Street) for future trail location. The property is currently for sale.

Richard Kramer:

- Long-time user of Blue Hills Reservation and Borderland State Park.
- Encouraged by progress seen at the Blue Hills Reservation following the 2011 RMP.
- Issues with on-line form for submitting comments.
 - Limited number of characters; would like to see it expanded to 10,000.
 - No confirmation that form has been submitted and received.
 - Need to provide feedback to people submitting comments.
- Does not hunt, but has observed deer overbrowsing over time. Believes that hunt is “unpleasant but essential.” Looking forward to recovery of habitat.

- Feels Blue Hills chapter is good, but Borderland chapter is “significantly inadequate” due to lack of information on natural resources and cultural resources.
 - The RMP relies too much on Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) for information; they do a “terrible job.”
 - A number of significant features are not documented by MHC or in the RMP.
 - Trails go by two prayer seats, putting them at risk.
 - Part of the disc golf course is on top of a prayer seat.
 - More should be done to protect these stone features.
 - Not all rare species at Borderland are identified in the chapter.
 - Information on reporting rare species to the Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program should be posted on kiosks at parks.
- Mountain bikes are potentially compatible at Borderland, but new trails are constantly being cut. Deliberate outreach to mountain bike community, to make them more responsible, should be part of the RMP
- DCR should acquire additional lands, such as Rattlesnake Hill in Sharon. The agency should proactively work with residents for land acquisition.
- There are lots of vernal pools at Borderland. Some are close to heavily used trails and are impacted. Suggested fencing to exclude both dogs and people from vernal pools.
- Would like to see deer management at Borderland.

John Cronin; Friends of the Blue Hills:

- What is the plan to repair/restore the Charles Eliot Memorial Bridge?

Donna Jones; Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary Volunteer:

- Commented that she has seen dedication in the workers that maintain the property at Bristol Blake State Reservation/Stony Brook Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Can DCR bring on seasonal interns for its properties?

Janet McGuire; Town of Canton Parks and Recreation:

- A lot of vehicle traffic passes through the Blue Hills Reservation. If traffic through the Reservation is stopped, it will cause problems for local communities. DCR needs to work with local communities to actively involve stakeholders in the decision-making process if it plans to do road closures.

Ron Clough; retired Forest and Park Supervisor at F. Gilbert Hills State Forest:

- It is important to included staffing numbers needed to manage parks.
- Are there still plans to connect the Warner Trail to the Blue Hills (i.e., under I-95)?

Pauline Collins:

- Expressed appreciation for all DCR does for the Blue Hills.

Transcribed November 16 and 17, 2016 by P. Cavanagh.